



Montana

Department of Labor and Industry

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Yellowstone County Court Fines BCRP Inc. for Failing to Maintain Workers Compensation

(Helena) --- Benjamin Reed, representing BRCI Inc, d/b/a Winpower West, appeared in Yellowstone County Court on March 1, 2006, on counts of failing to secure workers' compensation insurance.

According to reports by the Uninsured Employer's Fund (UEF) auditor, BCRP Inc. d/b/a Winpower West had been without workers' compensation insurance since December 2003.

Timeline 2006:

- Jan 11 - The Court ordered BCRP Inc. to cease operating a business with employees until it had properly secured worker's compensation insurance for its employees.
- Jan 25 - The UEF auditor met with Mr. Reed and provided specific instructions on how to reinstate coverage. Past due payroll was calculated for Winpower which is required to re-apply for insurance.
- Feb 6 - UEF files for contempt hearing.
- Feb 7 - Court orders hearing for March 1, 2006
- Feb 25 - Workers' compensation insurance becomes effective for BCRP Inc.

(more)

According to Cause No. DV-05-1346, Memorandum and Order, it was not until after the UEF moved for contempt hearing that Mr. Reed sought and procured workers' compensation insurance.

The Court fined BRCP Inc, d/b/a Winpower West, a fine of \$500. The UEF will also be penalizing the employer for the period of time he was uninsured, double the premium he would have paid if insured.

"Workers' Compensation coverage protects the employee and employer," said Administrator Jerry Keck. "The Department is pleased to report that the vast majority of Montana businesses are compliant. However, in instances when employers such as Mr. Reed repeatedly refuse to take corrective action the Department will take necessary action."

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